



# Volunteer Guardians

Volunteer Guardians and Conservators add greatly to the quality of life for many in our community. They step up to act for others who are unable to make their own decisions about their care, living situation or pay their own bills. Reasons for a guardian/conservator to be appointed may include developmental disabilities, physical disadvantages, mental illness, dementia and more. Guardians attend care conferences, court hearings, and need to be available to make decisions for the 'ward', as if they were a family member.

Many thanks to our Volunteer Guardians and Conservators, who go on and beyond to help make life a little easier for those who especially need more help. VIP is thankful to the following volunteers for their dedication by being guardians and conservators. **Patti Marar, Karrie Walter, Beth Rideout, Sue Soderburg, Tim Doyle, John Roeser, Joe Fraser, Pamela Petajan, Ruth Bay, Don Hutchinson, Cathy Sevensma, Judith Clark, John Baynton, Kathy Ann Blunck, Barb Winburne and Carla Lamphere.**

## Congratula-

We would like to our extend our congratula-  
tions to Volunteer Guardian/Conservator, Barbara  
Winburne, the 2012 recipient of the Grand Traverse Leelanau Antrim Bar Association Liberty Bell  
Award. Barb was nominated by attorney Deborah Rysso for her dedication as a devoted advocate for  
the disabled, Deborah had this to say about Barb:

"Barb currently serves as a volunteer guardian and conservator for developmentally and/or mentally impaired adults through our local Probate Court. She has served in this capacity since 1992.

Further, Barb seems to do this simply out of the goodness of her heart with little other motivation. That is an inspiration to us all to act with compassion and a sense of duty to help others who may not be able to help themselves. Barb tirelessly advocates for her clients and actively supports services for the developmentally and mentally impaired."



**Barbara Winburne with the  
Honorable David L. Stowe**



# Happy Birthday



New Vision  
Academy  
2012

## July:

Mary Wayne  
Michael Robold  
Carla Lamphere  
Beverly Popvits  
Luann Heinert  
Karen Grant  
Laura Mains  
Carrie Brown  
Matthew Bertrand  
Eric Connolly  
Barbara Wolff

## August:

Elliott Morrison  
Jane Vitkus  
Etta Mary Rajkovich  
Ruth Bay  
Edward Thoma  
Donald Kuelhorn  
John Wilkins  
Bettie Wilkins  
Barbara Disborough  
Timothy Doyle  
Barbara Grewe  
Susan Pahl



Best Wishes to  
Kelly Majszak, Volunteer  
Services Division, Adm.  
Assistant, who has  
moved across the hall to  
act in that capacity for Ju-  
venile Division of Family  
Court. Stop by and say

"Hi" to her when you come in!

New Vision Academy Summer  
Program 2012 is in full swing as we  
have finished the first 2-week  
session.

Youth were able to participate  
in a variety of activities, including: Vid-  
eo Production with volunteer Don Ku-  
ehlhorn, journal writing, yoga with vol-  
unteer Phil Hamburg, pet care with  
Cherryland Humane Society, therapy  
dog meet and greet with Guinness, vol-  
unteer Mike and Sharon Herron's  
Newfoundland. Also, 2 sessions facili-  
tated by local organizations, Women's  
Resource Center and Third Level  
Crisis Center.

Many thanks to Inland SEAS  
Educational Association for extending  
the John Shulz Scholarship Fund to  
our NVA youth who were able to go on  
a 3 hr boat trip around Grand Traverse  
Bay. Thank you Inland SEAS for  
offering this wonderful opportunity to  
our youth!



Congratulation's to Janet Kronk, Family  
Court Administration Office, on her selection as  
runner-up, Grand Traverse County, "Community  
Volunteer of the Year" recognition, for her work  
with the Grand Traverse Children's Garden. We  
appreciate Janet for all that she does in and out-  
side of our offices.



We are  
saddened by the  
passing of Referee  
Cynthia Conlon's  
father. We will keep  
her, and her family  
in our thoughts.



We continue to receive surveys from teachers with great input about student progress and recommendations. We will communicate with schools and families over the summer about Volunteer Plans for continuing with the same or new students in the Fall.

No Meetings in July or August, but we DO have events!

Learning Partner Students, Families and their Volunteers are invited to go fishing on Wednesday, July 25th. Forms will be mailed to Volunteers that did not already receive the info. at the June meeting. We will mail the forms to families in July. If your student signs-up directly, we will let you know. Volunteer Dan Briggs will be on hand with all of the gear and expertise; you just need to show-up!

Our annual Back-to-School Potluck Picnic will again feature a Nature Hike at the Boardman River Nature Center, August 29, from 4-6 p.m., on Cass Rd. Details will be mailed to Volunteers and Student Families in early August.

Our regular monthly Learning Partner Meeting for September will be the 11th at 4p.m.-NOT the first Tuesday. Watch your email and mailings for details!

**Thank you to everyone for great swim sessions!**



Welcome new CASA Volunteers, sworn in May 21, 2012, by Judge David L. Stowe:

**Laura Alanson  
Cheryl Bzdok  
Erica Canfield  
Peg Gove  
Barb Grewe  
Carla Hickman  
Cynthia Johnson  
Kate Moran**

**Jessi McGraw  
Lisa Neirgarth  
Amy Richards  
Christina Riddle  
Miah Siemion  
Elaine Spears  
Mary Wayne  
Kerrey Woughter**

Thank you to Amanda Steele for her words of encouragement and congratulations, as well as, to CASA volunteer Suzetta Summers, for her personalized address to the new volunteers.

Thank you to the CASA training team for sharing their time and expertise. 2012 Facilitator's were,

**Cheryl Gore Follette-Attorney/Guardian ad Litem**

**Jo Bullis-Women's Resource Center  
Carolyn Bearinger-Women's Resource Center  
Shelley Burnes-Addiction Treatment Services  
Jill Kimball-Lakeview Counseling  
Megan Heethuis-Dept. of Human Services  
Barb Cross-Maple Clinic  
Amanda Steele-Asst. Prosecuting Attorney  
Nina Merten-Attorney/Guardian ad Litem**

A special thank you to the Blossom Shop for their beautiful, individually wrapped carnations for all of the volunteers.

**Reminder:** No meeting in July and Dana La-Cross will facilitate the August meeting on fact based reporting.



**Save the Date!**  
The Michigan  
CASA Conference will  
be held on  
November 2-3, 2012  
at the Park Place Hotel



## Go to Bat for Early Childhood!



Traverse City Beach Bums  
vs.  
River City Rascals

Gates open at 4:05  
Game start at 5:05

Sunday, August 19th ~ FREE lawn seating  
for families of young children ages 0-5.

Kids Entertainment will include: KidzArt,  
Kindermusik and loads of additional hands  
-on activities during the game.



Sarah Hardy Farmers Market

Saturdays– 7:30 a.m.– 12 noon  
Wednesdays– 8:00 a.m.– 12 noon

National Cherry Festival  
July 7th-14th, 2012



Visit:  
[www.cherryfestival.org](http://www.cherryfestival.org)  
for an up to date list of  
this year's events!

## Outdoor Injury Prevention

Here are some reminders on how to  
prevent accidents while working out-  
doors:

- **Avoid loose-fitting clothing**-that would get caught in equipment with moving parts.
- **Wear closed-toe shoes**-with non-skid soles, as well as eye and hearing protection, when mowing the lawn.
- **Mow across a slope**– with a push mower and up and down a slope with a riding mower.
- **Never allow children** to operate outdoor power tools or allow them to ride on riding mowers.
- **Only use UL-approved outdoor extension cords** when plugging in outdoor equipment.

## Fresh Air = Fresh Perspective

Mental health professionals recognize the boost that comes from outdoor exercise.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage people to pursue physical activity outside to reduce depression and anxiety. And the American Counseling Association proclaims a link between positive mental health and outdoor recreation as well.





# GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



**July-August 2012**

It actually looks and acts like late spring-early summer though there were frost warnings for the center of the lower, upper peninsula a couple days ago.

For GTALC this time marks the closing of one fiscal year and the beginning of the next. This past year has been one of change, improvement and rebuilding for GTALC. We have substantially met all of our strategic goals and with our next board meeting approve a new logo, a new and improved information piece which replaces 4 older pieces, and set the new budget and calendar.

I reported in the last newsletter about the then upcoming Annual Book Sale and I can now update you on it. It was a success as we raised over \$2000 after expenses.

Another update is on our Tutor/Volunteer recognition event which was held at Traverse Library Woodmere Main Branch. Over 30 Volunteers attended and heard a moving commentary by one of our learners about his literacy journey.

While tutoring goes on throughout the year mid summer is usually a quiet time for GTALC's board. We will commence organizational activity with our August meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson

President GTALC





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
 DAVID L. STOWE, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE  
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 922-4827

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### LEARNING PARTNERS

1st Tuesday—4:00—5:00 pm

July 3rd (No Meeting)  
 August 7th (No Meeting)



### CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, July 17th-(No Meeting)  
 Tuesday, August 21st-see pg. 3



### LITERACY COUNCIL

3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday – 6:00 pm  
 Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, July 18th  
 Wednesday, August 15th



### Independence Day

Wednesday, July 4th  
 Office is Closed!



### Traverse City Fireworks

Wed. July 4th and  
 Sat. July 14th  
 10:30 p.m. at the  
 Open Space



### Friday Night Live!

July 20th  
 July 27th  
 August 3rd  
 August 10th